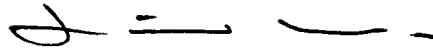


The claims of the application are directed at a laryngeal mask where the tube and mount are molded together as a single piece.

In Brain U.S. patent 5,241,956 there is described a laryngeal mask device having an oesophageal drainage evacuation tube in addition to the main airway tube. There is mention that the oesophageal drainage tube 23 could be molded with the mask body (column 8 lines 14 and 15) but there is no suggestion that the main airway tube could be molded with it. Indeed, the text states clearly adjacent the passage describing the molding of the drainage tube that the airway tube is "secured to the mask body" (column 8 lines 15 and 16). Also, column 4 lines 48 and 49 state that the mask unit may be "generally as described in either of said US patents", which are referred to earlier in column 1 lines 11 to 23. Here it is also clearly stated that the "mask ... is attached to a tube which emerges from the mouth" (column 1 lines 20 and 21). See further the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7 where it is disclosed that "a mask 30, having a connection to an airway tube 31 as in FIGS 1-5 also has a relatively stiff body 32 ..." (Column 6, lines 11-13. Underline added) Clearly, the fact that the airway tube is connected to the body or mount of the mask means that the airway tube and the mount are not molded together as an integral single piece component.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the instant invention is patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the same to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Jan 6 2007

VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Attachment Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Please amend claims 1 and 3-7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A laryngeal mask assembly comprising: [a] an airway tube; a mount at a patient end of said airway tube; and an annular sealing cuff extending around a patient end of said mount, wherein said airway tube and mount are molded together as an integral, single-piece component.
3. (Amended) A laryngeal mask assembly according to Claim 1 including an inflation line opening at one end into said sealing cuff, wherein said inflation line extends in a groove along an outside of said airway tube, and wherein said sealing cuff is inflatable and deflatable via said inflation line.
4. (Amended) A laryngeal mask assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said airway tube and mount are molded of polyurethane.
5. (Amended) A laryngeal mask assembly comprising: [a] an airway tube; a mount at a patient end of said airway tube; an inflation line extending in a groove along said airway tube; an annular sealing cuff extending around a patient end of said mount in communication with said inflation line, wherein said airway tube and mount are molded together as an integral, single-piece component, and wherein said sealing cuff is attached with said mount as a separate component and is adapted to seal with tissue in the region of the hypopharynx.
6. (Amended) A method of manufacture of a laryngeal mask assembly comprising the steps of molding [a] an airway tube and a mount integrally with said airway tube; and subsequently attaching a sealing cuff with said mount.
7. (Amended) A method of manufacture of a laryngeal mask assembly comprising the steps of molding [a] an airway tube and a mount integrally with said airway tube, said mount being of generally shoe-shape and having a patient end extending at an angle to an axis of the airway tube; and subsequently attaching a sealing cuff with said mount, said mount being shaped such that said cuff can seal with tissue in the region of the hypopharynx.